



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu and La Jolla Laboratories
P. O. Box 3830
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TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE
SIXTEENTH HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

Tournament time is here again. The National Marine Fisheries Service is happy to be a participant in the Sixteenth Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament. As in the past we will perform the scientific task and ask your assistance in obtaining the scientific benefits from this outstanding sports fishing event.

This year we plan to continue our shoreside research and ask your permission to collect measurements and samples of internal organs from your catch. Be assured that we will not touch any fish without your permission, nor will we touch it until it has been officially weighed and recorded. If you wish to mount any portion of your prize, all care will be taken not to mar it.

Because of some new findings in the problem of mercury content, which will be presented at the workshop, the shoreside sampling will include collecting various parts of the fish for mercury analysis. The sampling crew will be led by Heeny Yuen. If you have questions on billfish biology or the work that the National Marine Fisheries Service is doing he will do his best to answer them.

Attached is a report on the data collected at the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament for the years 1962-72. This report was written by John Naughton and published in the Marine Fisheries Review, a monthly magazine published by the National Marine Fisheries Service. His Figure 1 which shows the fish contact rate in the tournament area over the years does not include 1973. We are including that as a separate attachment. Other attachments are graphs from which you can estimate a fish's weight simply by measuring its total length (tip of bill to fork of tail). These graphs, derived from hundreds of measurements, depict the average condition. The fish that you catch will vary more or less from the graph. This is especially true for very large fish.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. Good fishing in the Tournament.

Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

Attachments

JUN 24 1974

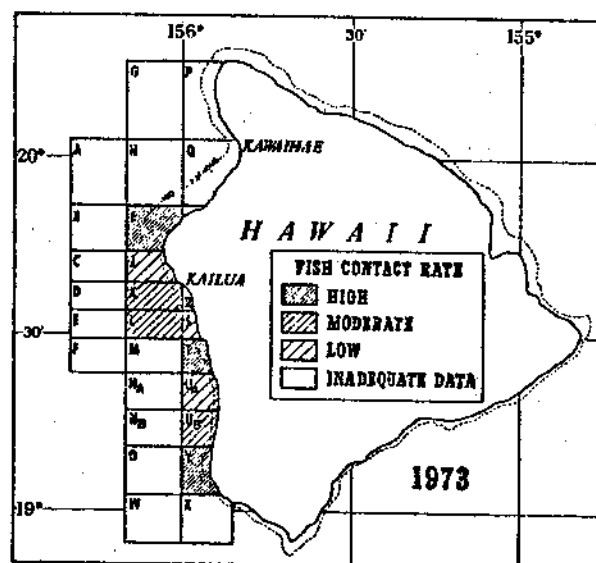
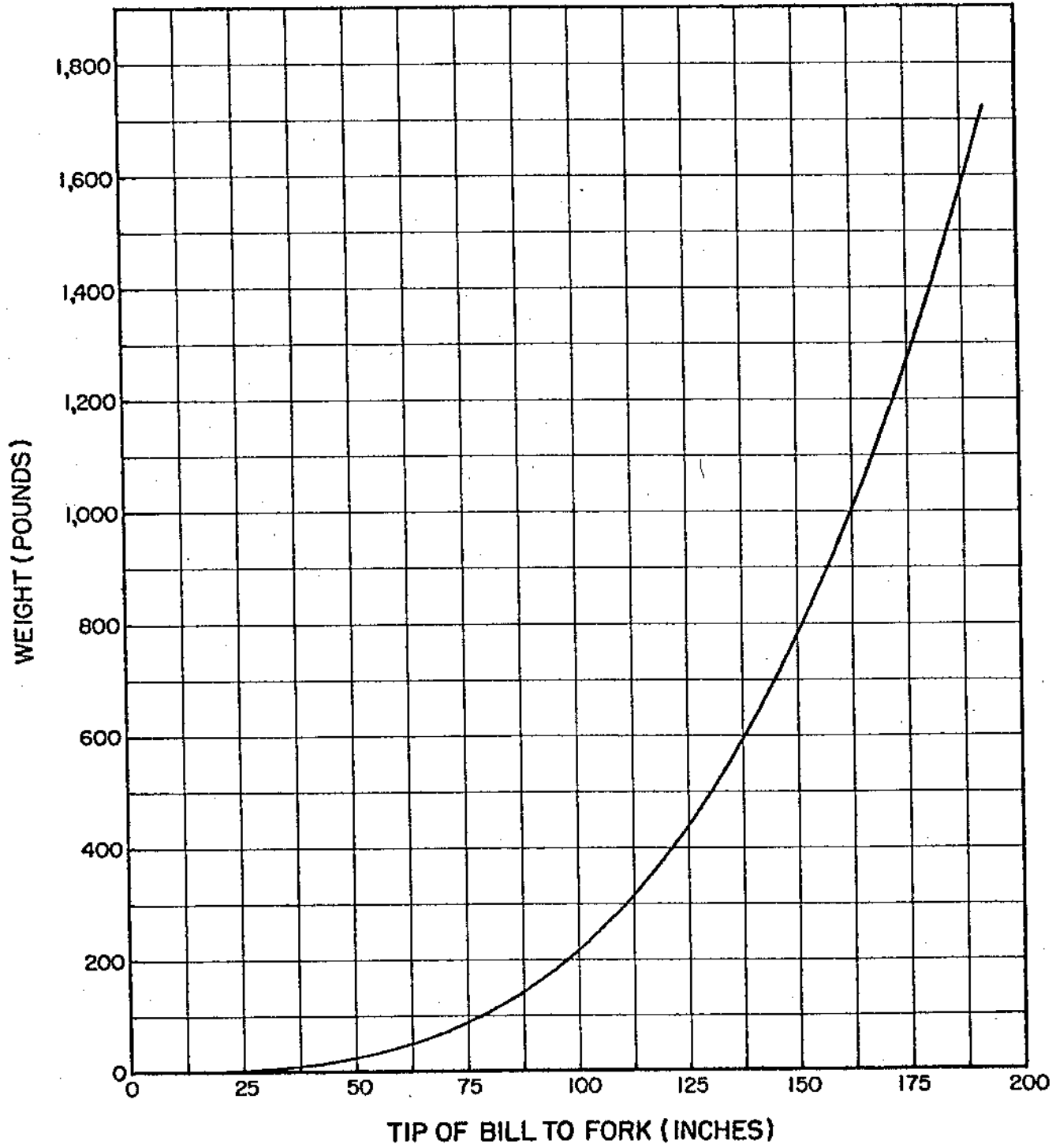
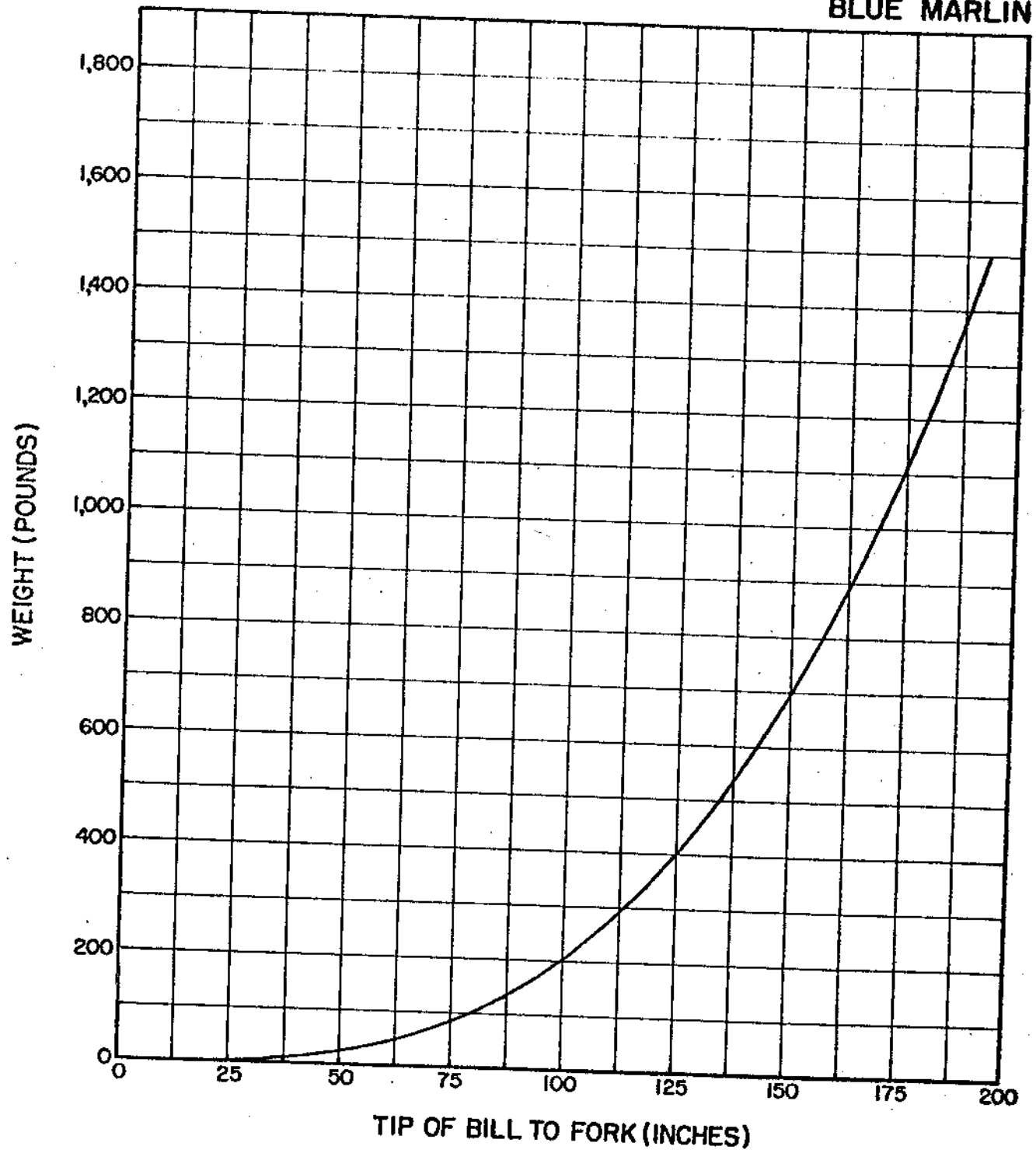


Figure 1.--Fish contact rates in the various fishing areas.

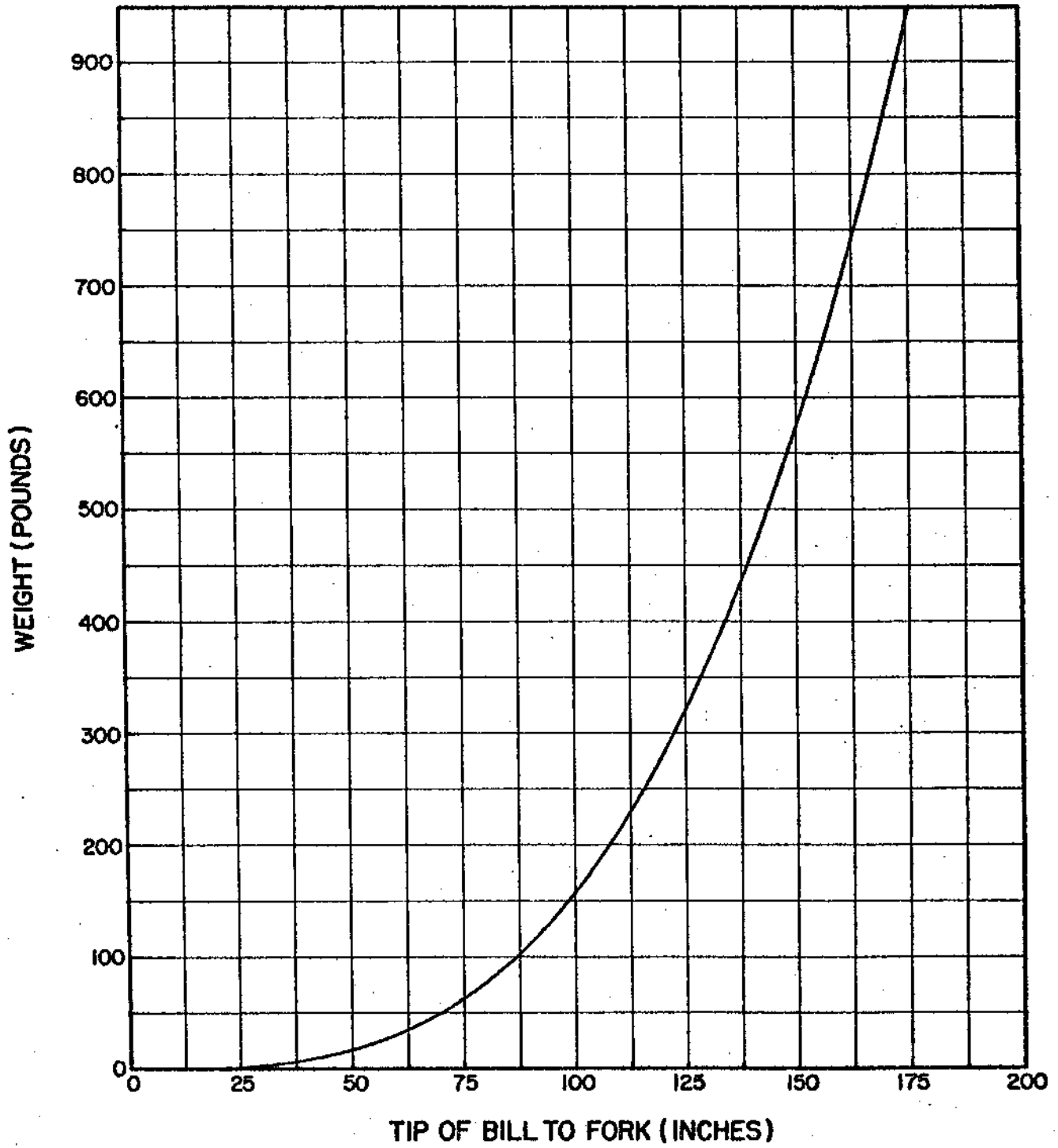
BLACK MARLIN



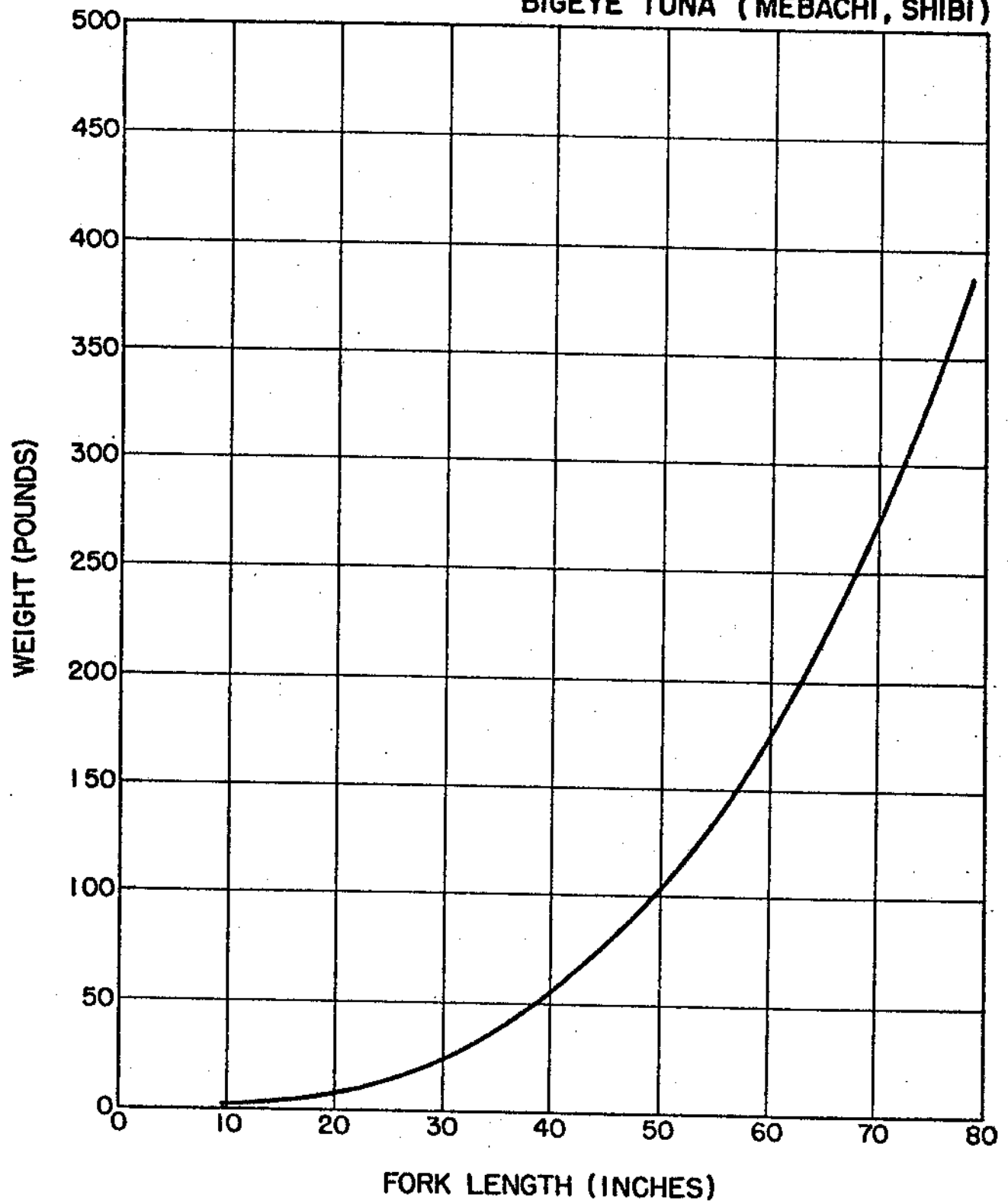
BLUE MARLIN

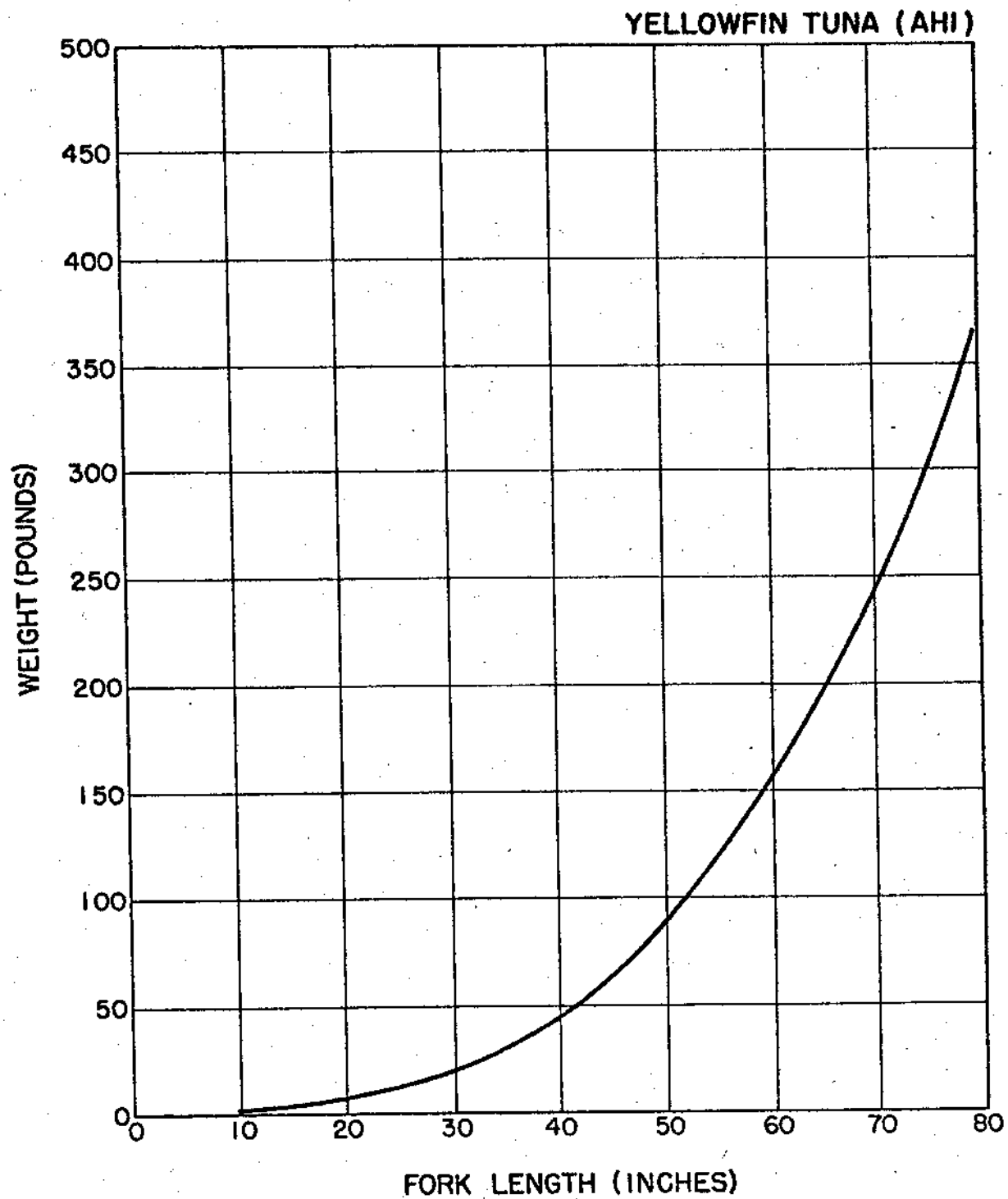


STRIPED MARLIN



BIGEYE TUNA (MEBACHI, SHIBI)





LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIP FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA (AHI).